

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 IO-14 SP-03 AID-20 EB-11

NSC-07 RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01

CEA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 /190 W

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R 152113Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3397

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USLO PEKING

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 3253

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CU, VE

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER AGAIN ALLUDES TO RELATIONS WITH
CUBA AND OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES

REF: (A) CARACAS 2699 (NOTAL) (B) CARACAS 3148 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY. VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTER SCHACHT AGAIN DIS-
CUSSED CUBA IN REMARKS MADE JUST BEFORE DEPARTURE FOR MFM AND OASGA.
HIS STATEMENTS, COUPLED WITH THOSE MADE EARLIER ABOUT RELATIONS WITH
CUBA AND OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, MAKE IT CLEAR NEW PEREZ ADMINIST-
RATION IS DETERMINED TO CONTINUE NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH THESE
COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, GOV STILL CONTENTS THAT IN CASE OF CUBA RESPONSI-
BILITY FOR INITIATIVES IS THAT OF HAVANA. THE REMARKS ALSO IMPLY
GOV EXPECTS DISCUSSION OF CUBA TO SURFACE DURING MEETINGS IN US.
END SUMMARY.

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1. JUST PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FOR US TO ATTEND LA FOREIGN MINISTERS'

MEETING AND OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, FOREIGN MINISTER SCHACHT ARISTEGUIETA AGAIN STRESSED VENEZUELAN WILLINGNESS TO ENTERTAIN CUBAN INITIATIVES FOR REESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS. ANSWERING NEWSMAN'S QUESTION SCHACHT STATED, "AS HAS BEEN SAID BEFORE, WE HOPE THAT THIS COUNTRY, WHICH FORMS PART OF THE HEMISPHERE AND WHICH ALWAYS HAD VERY CLOSE RELATIONS WITH VENEZUELA, WILL BE REINCORPORATED INTO THE HEMISPHERIC SYSTEM AND WE ARE MORE THAN READY TO RECEIVE ANY INITIATIVE FROM THAT COUNTRY FOR THE REESTABLISHMENT OF THOSE RELATIONS."

2. EARLIER SCHACHT ANSWERED A QUESTION ABOUT POSSIBLE US ADVERSE REACTION TO GOV'S REESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH CUBA AND PRC BY DISCOUNTING THE POSSIBILITY ON GROUNDS THAT THE US ITSELF TOOK NEW INITIATIVES INCLUDING VISITS OF SECRETARY KISSINGER AND PRESIDENT NIXON TO PRC AND USSR. HEADLINES, HOWEVER, CONCENTRATED ON HIS STATEMENT THAT VENEZUELA ASPIRES TO BE MAJOR SPOKESMAN AGAINST "BEGEMONIES"

AND ASCRIBING MAJOR HEMISPHERIC PROBLEMS TO THEM. (HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES ARE MAJOR BUGABOOS INCLUDED IN TERM.) HE ALSO DEMANDED THAT OAS REVISIONS GUARANTEE EQUALITY OF STATES.

3. COMMENT: SCHACHT AIRPORT REMARKS REPEAT STATEMENTS MADE IN APRIL 13 PRESS CONFERENCE THAT PRESIDENT PEREZ' FOREIGN POLICY STRESSES ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES WITH WHICH RELATIONS DO NOT YET EXIST. THIS, HE AGREED, IMPLIES RELATIONS ON BASIS OF MUTUAL INTEREST WITH PRC, HUNGARY, EAST GERMANY, AND THE DRV. WITH REGARD TO CUBA, HE HAD CAREFULLY INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO MEET INFORMALLY WITH CUBAN REPRESENTATIVES BUT THAT GOV EXPECTS HAVANA TO TAKE INITIATIVE. AP STORY DATED APRIL 14 REPORTS HE AGAIN MADE POSITIVE STATEMENTS ABOUT RELATIONS WITH CUBA AFTER HIS ARRIVAL.

4. THE ABOVE, ADDED TO SCHACHT'S APRIL 8 REMARKS (REF B), INDICATE HE DOES INDEED EXPECT THAT CUBA WILL BE A SUBJECT DISCUSSED DURING THE UPCOMING LA MINISTERS' MEETINGS IN THE US, AS PRESIDENT PEREZ HAD PREDICTED TO TREASURY SECRETARY SHULTZ MARCH 28 (REF A). AMBASSADOR WAS AT AIRPORT TO SEE SCHACHT OFF, HOPING TO RAISE SEVERAL MATTERS PRIVATELY WITH HIM, AND INTENDED TO DISCUSS WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER THE MATTER OF RELATIONS WITH CUBA AND NORTH VIETNAM. UNFORTUNATELY, SCHACHT WAS QUITE LATE IN ARRIVING, AND ALMOST IMMEDIATELY COMMENCED HIS PRESS CONFERENCE.

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